

Good afternoon, and happy Thursday. What a great night we had in downtown Troy Wednesday night for the "Celebrate Under a River & Stars" event along River Street.

We had new businesses opening up, others celebrating anniversaries, and many happy people enjoying all of the excitement. Even Mother Nature cooperated by holding off the impending storms for a few hours. So the weather was decent enough for a couple of hundred people to attend the openings of the stores. Cottage Treasures and Trink were the two stores drawing huge crowds, and I want to thank Nadia Trinkala for all her work putting the event together. It was a huge success.

Being a person who has been in small business my entire life, I completely understand the difficulties behind start a business, roughing it through the tough times, and ultimately reaping the benefits of hard work. After visiting the new shops last night, and the seeing creativity behind their establishment, I have no doubts about the successes that will come. And the success of River Street, as we have seen in recent years, helps the City in a number of ways.

So Congratulations goes out to those new shops, and the owners who have already stuck it out for many years. People like Peter LaRocca, Karen Messick, Mike Davis, and Ken Dufty have poured their lives into that area, and that effort will be rewarded. And then there are people like Jean Kruegger, who has moved to different buildings numerous time on River Street. Perseverance does pay off in the end. A great street, a great area, got another boost of energy Wednesday night, make sure you stop by soon and check it out.

The idea of small business brings me to my next topic- the legislation we introduced this week concerning convenience stores. We are proposing any store with less than 1,500 of interior square footage, or less than six gas pumps, close between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m.

As I said earlier this week, I am a pro-business person, but I am pro-neighborhood as well. During my first few months in office we threw around the idea for this legislation. The recent murder on Hill Street, in front of a convenience store, just pushed it along a little further. In the future someone else will be killed, and this legislation will not stop that, but I do believe it will accomplish one goal. It will make the lives of criminals, drug dealers, and unwanted characters that much more difficult. If their lives are miserable, then I am happy. I don't care how that sounds it is the truth. There are a lot of people here who asked for this law, pleaded for us to do something. I hope when people look at that should they need to understand the reasoning behind it.

I have been challenged to keep the people of Troy safe. I want everyone to not only be the safest in the area, the state, and the country, I want them to *feel* the safest. And I will do what I can to see that happen. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, and if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints please do not hesitate to contact my office at 270-4401, or e-mail me at the Mayor's Office.